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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

The claims have been amended as follows:

19. (Amended) A continuous casting apparatus including a dispensing assembly ~~Apparatus~~ for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold; the ~~apparatus~~ assembly comprising:

- a source of granular mold flux;
- an intermediate hopper which receives granular mold flux from the source;
- one or more delivery tube assemblies interconnected with the intermediate hopper for feeding of the granular mold flux from the intermediate hopper to the top of the slab being cast within the continuous casting mold, each delivery tube assembly including
  - a flexible line, and
  - an inline air pump associated with each of said one or more delivery tube assemblies for assuring a positive flow of granular mold flux through the flexible line;

means connected to each of said inline air pump to ~~control progressively vary~~ the flow rate of the granular mold flux from the inline air pump to the top of the slab, said means varying the air volume delivered to the said inline air pump.

20. (Amended) The apparatus assembly for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold as set forth in claim 19 wherein the apparatus is further provided with a feed control panel wherein an operator may remotely control the flow rate by either slowing up or stopping the flow if he sees that the flux is building up too high so that it is almost as high as the top of the mold, or by increasing the flow rate if he sees that hot spots are developing or showing through the flux.

21. (Amended) The apparatus assembly for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold as set forth in claim 19 wherein an I/P device is provided for each air pump, the air volume being delivered by the air pump being under the control of the associated I/P device.

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22. (Amended) The apparatus assembly for introducing granular mold flux onto the top of a slab being cast within a continuous casting mold as set forth in claim 21 wherein each I/P device is associated with an air volume booster.